



ADMISSIONS POLICY

Diploma Programme

Gateway High School

Kissimmee, Florida, USA

Last revised September 2022

PROMOTING ACCESS TO AN IB EDUCATION

Per the state of Florida’s “Controlled Open Enrollment” (Choice) policy, parents/guardians can apply to send their dependent student to any public/charter school (including IB World Schools) with capacity.¹ By adhering to this policy, the School District of Osceola County (SDOC) and Gateway High School (GWHS) ensure access to an IB education for the broadest possible range of students regardless of school zoning policies.

GWHS collaborates with the district’s Department of Educational Choices and Innovation (DECI) to implement the following events that promote the Choice policy and encourage students to attend IB World Schools.

- Choice Fair
 - Annual event in November that showcases educational programs at every public/charter school in the district
- Joint Choice Nights
 - Monthly events in December and January that showcase unique curriculums offered by the DP at Gateway and Celebration High Schools, Osceola School for the Arts, NeoCity Academy STEM School, and Professional and Technical High School (PATHS).
- Freshman Curriculum Night (January)
 - Annual event in January that showcases educational programs available at public high schools.
- DP Curriculum Night (March)
 - Annual event that showcases DP courses offered at GWHS
- Diploma Programme Interest Meetings
 - Digital and face-to-face monthly events (October-May) that showcase the DP at Gateway High School.

Promoting Access to the Diploma Programme

To encourage students to attempt the full Diploma, each year the DP at GWHS allocates 150 spaces for grade 9 and 150 spaces for grade 10 students who anticipate completing the full DP in grades 11 and 12. This policy promotes educational continuity by allowing students to attend GWHS for four continuous years rather than attending separate schools for 9-10th grades and 11-12th grades.

Promoting Access to IB Courses

To increase all students’ access to an IB Education, GWHS allows non-DP students to take one year SL courses including IB Business Management, IB Global Politics, and IB Psychology. Eligible students are notified of their eligibility and invited to attend the DP Curriculum Night in March.

¹ Florida Legislature. Title XLVIII, ch. 1002, sec. 31, ss. (2)(a). The 2022 Florida Statutes. 2022.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.31.html

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

As the DP is a holistic curriculum that operates outside of the scope of the standard 24-credit diploma, the state of Florida has prescribed additional graduation requirements for DP students.² As a result, DP applicants must be in good academic standing and satisfy the minimum graduation requirements to be admitted to the DP. Accordingly, spots in the DP at GWHS are awarded by merit according to the eligibility criteria with priority consideration given to the following groups³:

- Dependent children of active-duty military personnel
- Students who currently reside within the school district⁴
- Children who have relocated due to a foster care placement
- Children who have relocated due to a court-ordered change in custody

Early Admission for Anticipated Diploma Programme Candidates (Incoming Grade 9 and Grade 10 Students)

To be considered for early admission as an anticipated DP candidate:

- Students must reside within the state of Florida, preferably within Osceola County.
 - As multiple schools within the district are authorized to offer the DP, the School District of Osceola County has established “school zones” that assign DP students to an IB World School according to proximity. Students who are not “zoned” to attend the DP at GWHS must provide their own transportation to and from the school campus.
- Students cannot have a pending suspension or expulsion
- Students must apply by semester 1 of grade 10.
- Students must be able to begin attending GWHS within the first three weeks of their anticipated semester of enrollment.
 - Students who do not enroll in Gateway High School during the first three weeks of their anticipated semester of enrollment semester will have the opportunity to enroll the following semester.
- Students must receive favorable behavioral and academic recommendations from their teachers and guidance counselor.
 - The behavioral profile evaluates a student based on adherence to district and school attendance and behavior policies as well as the characteristics of the IB Learner Profile.
 - The academic profile evaluates a student’s grades and test scores to ensure they are on-track to graduate.

² Florida Department of Education. “Standard Diploma Requirements: Academic Advisement—What Students and Parents Need to Know.” 2020. <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf>.

³ Florida Legislature. Title XLVIII, ch. 1002, sec. 31, ss. (2)(c). The 2022 Florida Statutes. 2022.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.31.html

⁴ Students residing in the district, including charter school students, may not be displaced by a student from another district seeking enrollment under the controlled open enrollment process. Florida Legislature. Title XLVIII, ch. 1002, sec. 31, ss. (2)(c)(4)(d). The 2022 Florida Statutes. 2022. http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=1000-1099/1002/Sections/1002.31.html.

Regular Admission for Diploma Programme Candidates⁵

To be considered for admission to the DP:

- students must reside within the state of Florida, preferably within Osceola County.
 - As multiple schools within the district are authorized to offer the DP, the School District of Osceola County has established “school zones” that assign DP students to an IB World School according to proximity. Students who are not “zoned” to attend the DP at Gateway High School must provide their own transportation to and from the school campus.
- students cannot have a pending suspension or expulsion.
- students must complete the application process and enroll in Gateway High School within the first three weeks of the academic school year of grade 11.
 - As the DP curriculum stipulates that students must take a minimum of three Higher Level (HL) courses delivered over two years, it is not possible for students to enroll during semester 2 of grade 11 or at any point during grade 12.
- students must have a *minimum 2.25 unweighted* Grade Point Average (GPA).
 - A 2.0 *unweighted* GPA is required to graduate in the state of Florida.⁶
- students must have *at least* 2.0 English Language Arts (ELA) credits
 - English 1
 - English 2
- students must have *at least* 1.0 credits in French or Spanish.
 - Students who do not have *at least* 1.0 credits in French or Spanish must complete French 1 or Spanish 1 during DP year 1 and French 2 or Spanish 2 during the summer between DP year 1 and DP year 2
- students must have *at least* 1.0 social studies credits.
 - Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography, AP World History, and AP US History preferred
- students must have *at least* 1.0 credit in Biology
- students must have *at least* 3.0 mathematics credits
 - Algebra 1
 - Geometry
 - Algebra 2
- students must receive favorable behavioral and academic recommendations from their teachers and guidance counselor.
 - The behavioral profile evaluates a student based on adherence to district and school attendance and behavior policies as well as the characteristics of the IB Learner Profile.
 - The academic profile evaluates a student’s grades and test scores to ensure they are on-track to graduate.

Requirements for Course Candidates

- Students must already attend GWHS either as their zoned school or through the Choice policy.
- Students must be in grade 11 or grade 12.
- Students must receive a counselor’s approval.

⁵ Before beginning DP Year 1, students who were admitted under the Early Admission policy will be re-evaluated against the Regular Diploma Admission eligibility requirements.

⁶ Florida Department of Education.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Early Admission and Regular Diploma Programme Application Process

Regardless of year and semester of entry, all students who intend to participate in the Diploma Programme must complete a Choice Application for the District and all three parts (Student Profile, Teacher Recommendation Form, and Counselor Inventory) of the GWHS Diploma Programme Application.⁷

1. Parent/guardian must complete the School District of Osceola County Choice Application
2. Student's guidance counselor must complete the Counselor Inventory by providing requested academic (grades and test history), behavior, and attendance data.
3. Student's guidance counselor will distribute the Confidential Teacher Worksheet to the student's core academic (ELA, social studies, science, and math) teachers.
4. The counselor will then send the Counselor Inventory and Confidential Teacher Worksheet via e-mail, district courier service, or United States Postal Service (USPS) to the DP Coordinator (DPC) at GWHS.
5. Applications will be reviewed by the DPC and/or IB Guidance Counselor at GWHS.
6. The DPC will electronically notify the district Department of Educational Choices and Innovation (DECI) of a student's application status (accepted, waitlist, or denied).
7. The DP Coordinator will notify the parent/guardian and student of a student's application status (accepted, waitlist, or denied) via USPS.
8. The parent/guardian of accepted students will notify the DECI and the DPC at GWHS whether their student will accept their spot in the DP.

Course Candidate Application Process

As course candidates must already attend GWHS, they do not have to complete a district Choice application or a DP Candidate application. Students who are interested in taking an SL course as a course candidate simply select the course when completing their schedule preference form. Requests are then approved or denied based upon the previously stated eligibility requirements.

⁷ Appendix A

Teacher Recommendation Form

(To be completed by the applicant's core academic teachers)

Teachers: Your input is important. If you feel this form does not provide sufficient opportunity for you to communicate with us about your student, please feel free to email your comments to the appropriate IB Coordinator:

Celebration High School: Alissa.Petersen@osceolaschools.net.

Gateway High School: Kathryn.Bosco@osceolaschools.net.

Using a **scale of 0-4**, where **4 = strongly agree** and **0 = strongly disagree**, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

	English	Social Studies	Science	Math	Total Points
The student regularly attends and arrives on time to class.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
The student engages in class activities.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
The student is <i>caring</i> and respects others.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
The student is <i>principled</i> and acts with integrity and honesty.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
The student is <i>balanced</i> and demonstrates effective time-management and organization skills.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
The student is <i>reflective</i> and strives to improve themselves.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
I recommend this student for the Diploma Programme.	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4	/
Student's current gradebook grade		%	%	%	/
Teacher Name					
Teacher Signature					
Date					
Total Points	/	/	/	/	/

Counselor Inventory Worksheet

(To be completed by applicant’s guidance counselor)

Behavior Profile: Please record the student’s attendance and discipline information below.

Absences: _____ **Tardies:** _____ **Referrals:** _____

If a student has received a referral, please briefly explain the nature of the incidents:*

***Please include a copy of any relevant notes from the student documentation tab if available.**

Academic Profile: Provide the student’s current weighted and unweighted GPAs (if available) and **most recent** FSA Reading and Math total achievement levels (if available).

Weighted GPA: _____ **FSA ELA Writing and Reading:** _____
Unweighted GPA: _____ **FSA Mathematics:** _____

Transcript: Use the values below to record the **last three years** of the student’s academic transcript.

Standard Level Classes

A = 4.0 B = 3.0 C = 2.0 D = 1.0 F = 0

Advanced/Honors Classes

A = 4.5 B = 3.5 C = 2.5 D = 1.5 F = 0

AP Classes

A = 5.0 B = 4.0 C = 3.0 D = 2.0 F = 0

	Grade Level: _____			Grade Level: _____			Grade Level: _____			Total Points
	Course	FY Grade	Value	Course	FY Grade	Value	Course	FY Grade	Value	
English										
Math										
Science										
Social Studies										

Counselor’s Name _____ **Counselor’s Signature** _____ **Date** _____

